



RAPID FUNDING ENVELOPE FOR HIV/AIDS: TANZANIA



UNITING EFFORTS AND BUILDING CAPACITY IN THE FIGHT AGAINST HIV & AIDS



Leah and Lena Gibson came to the Youth New Fashion (YNF) school as orphans, having recently lost both of their parents to AIDS. They had been living with their grandparents in a small rural village near Sikonge, a remote town in the middle of Tabora region, which stretches across west-central Tanzania. Life is difficult in the small village though, with limited food and limited resources, so Leah and Lena came to YNF, which is dedicated to providing shelter and education to orphans and vulnerable children. They came to not only continue their formal education, but to receive skills-based training as well. It is a similar story to that of Mohammed Afhamen, Rehema Jackson, and countless others. Mohammed and Rehema are both orphans, but they are also recent graduates of YNF and they are now self-sufficient. Mohammed is now working as a certified carpenter and Rehema as a tailor.

Across Tabora, important local programmes such as the YNF are receiving organisational support, capacity building and seed money to help implement programmes where previously there was little support and very few resources. This assistance is coming from the Tabora NGO Cluster (TANGOC), itself a local civil society organisation, which over the last fourteen years has been dedicated to increasing the practice of HIV/AIDS preventative measures and ensuring the provision of adequate support services to orphans and vulnerable children (OVCs), People Living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA), and their families.

In 2006, TANGOC recognized that although many local community groups wanted to help those affected by HIV/AIDS, they had limited capacity and resources to do so. In order to address this issue, TANGOC applied for support from the Rapid Funding Envelope (RFE), an innovative partnership between the Tanzanian Commission for AIDS



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Mohammed Afhamen, graduate of the NYF School, now working as a carpenter in Sikonge, Tanzania.

(TACAIDS), the Zanzibar AIDS Commission (ZAC), nine bilateral donors, and one private foundation, to enable civil society institutions in Tanzania to participate fully in the national multi-sectoral response to the AIDS epidemic.

With the RFE's support, TANGOC began their work to enhance the efforts of HIV/AIDS groups across the region. Selecting six community-based organisations (CBOs) in each of Tabora's six districts, TANGOC began offering HIV/AIDS education, sensitization trainings on issues surrounding vulnerable children and PLWHAs, "seed money" for project implementation, organisational

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management training, and coordination among the groups. Recognizing that these grass-roots organisations were dealing directly with individuals in need, TANGOC also included the training of home-based care providers and caretakers, as well as partner training on referral mechanisms, HIV/AIDS treatment compliance, nutritional care, and psychosocial support.

One of the groups to receive TANGOC's support was the Women Economic Coordinating Council (WECC), located in Nzega. Nzega sits literally at the crossroads of Tanzania, with three main transit routes crossing in the town's center. This makes it a high-transit area, which is also associated with higher rates of HIV/AIDS. Working to support the large number of HIV/AIDS orphans in this area—a vast area which covers seven wards, 136 villages, and an estimated 1,060 vulnerable children—WECC member Joyce Mwaigwisya says that the support they received from TANGOC has raised their understanding of orphans rights. "We have been blessed by the Tabora NGO Cluster's support. We were not able to handle issues surround OVCs properly before, but with their support we are reaching into the communities, engaging local government councils, and directly supporting children."

Joyce emphasizes these children's vulnerability, noting that oftentimes they are left alone in their homes to raise each other after their parents pass away, or they are denied schooling by caretakers and made to work. The need is great she says, which is why one of the greatest gifts that TANGOC has given them is the ability to organize their efforts, track their progress, and secure additional outside funding. In fact, she says with a broad smile, they are now receiving support from two international NGOs, both focused on supporting vulnerable children. "We tried to get support before, but never could. With TANGOC's help, we have been successful."

In fact, 16 of TANGOC's 36 partners have received nearly \$277,000 dollars (U.S.) from different funding sources. Holding monthly partnership meetings and on-going trainings, TANGOC have become known as, "the ones that coordinate us." They are enhancing the knowledge base of these CBOs, empowering them to work together and facilitating new methods for achieving their community-driven goals.



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Joyce Mwaigwisya, Anna Johh, and Deotha Vemamnce, members of the Women's Economic Group Coordination Council in Ngeza, Tanzania

PROJECT RESULTS:

- 108 representatives of 36 partner organisations trained in organisational management as well as nutritional care, treatment compliance and client referral mechanisms.
- 36 Home Based Care service providers trained.
- 110 PLHAs provided with HIV-related palliative care.
- 5,935 OVC supported with education materials.
- 185 caretakers trained on psychosocial counseling and caretaking skills.
- 1,809 individuals reached with community outreach HIV/AIDS prevention.
- 16 partner organisations now receiving support from different donors.

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